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Behrmann named Elk Grove's new city manager

By Lance Armstrong Citizen Staff Writer Jan 16, 2019



Citizen file photo

The Elk Grove City Council on Jan. 9 voted unanimously in favor of Jason Behrmann serving as the next city manager.

He has served as the interim city manager since Laura Gill resigned as city manager last May.

During Behrmann's time in the role, the city undertook a nationwide search to find a permanent city manager. He was among the candidates interviewed for the position.

After emerging from a 52-minute closed session, Mayor Steve Ly announced the council's 5-0 decision to remove the word "interim" from Behrmann's title.

"On behalf of the City Council, I congratulate Mr. Behrmann on his appointment," Ly said. "We are excited to continue working him as the city manager."

Behrmann assumed his role as permanent city manager, effective immediately. The city's human resources and legal staff is preparing a formal contract that will be presented for consideration to the council during its Jan. 23 meeting.

Prior to his employment with the city of Elk Grove, Behrmann worked for the city of Galt for more than a decade, including six years as city manager.

His background also includes work for the cities of San Luis Obispo; Dublin, California; and Bloomington, Indiana.

After being hired as Elk Grove's assistant city manager in 2015, Behrmann oversaw the city's public works and development services departments. His activities included leading efforts to develop the city's future civic center.

Behrmann's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in political science from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University.

Following the mayor's announcement, Behrmann expressed his commitment to the role.

"I want to commit to you, members of the City Council and members of the public, that I will serve with integrity, with honesty, with professionalism and with fairness," Behrmann said.

"We want to hold up high standards for the organization that we already have in place and set new standards for transparency, for openness, for fairness and opportunities for everyone, for inclusiveness."

Behrmann noted that he feels fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the city staff.

"I'm blessed to have the privilege of working with such an amazing staff," he said. "They're talented. They're hard working. They're dedicated. They're the best team that I ever worked with in my career."

Vice Mayor Pat Hume said Behrmann won the position through his work as the interim city manager.

"I believe 46 or so applicants applied (for the city manager position)," Hume said. "(It was) narrowed down to a field of 12, (then) narrowed down to a field of six. I told Mr. Behrmann early on in the process (that) the job was essentially his to lose, because of the great things he had been doing since taking the helm as an interim."

Council Member Steve Detrick gave similar praise.

"We've had a chance to test drive you for the last seven to eight months as the interim city manager, where you've done a phenomenal job, and we look forward to working with you in the years to come," Detrick told Behrmann.

Council Member Darren Suen said why he considered Behrmann the best candidate.

"When the candidates came in, I think the combination of their resumes compared to theirs, and the fact that we had the chance to actually work with you in that role, I think you eclipsed everyone else," Suen said.

Behrman is the fourth city manager to serve the city of Elk Grove since its incorporation in 2000. He was preceded by Gill, John Danielson, and David Jenkins.